

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SAULSBURY made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Joint Resolution S. 6.]

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the "bill in relation to the Louisville and Portland canal," and also the "joint resolution authorizing the enlargement of, and construction of a branch to, the Louisville and Portland canal," beg leave to report:

That said canal was constructed under a charter from the State of Kentucky, granted in 1825, and was completed in December, 1830, at a cost of \$1,019,277 09. That the capital stock of said company is divided into 10,000 shares, of \$100 each. That the United States, by subscription, are entitled to 2,902 of these shares, which cost the government the sum of \$233,500. That upon these shares the government has received, as dividends, the sum of \$257,778, a sum greater than the original cost of the shares owned by it. By an act of the legislature of the State of Kentucky, passed in February, 1842, the president and directors of said company were authorized to sell out the stock held by individuals to the United States, the State of Kentucky, or the city of Louisville; or, further, to appropriate the net income of the canal to the purchase of stock belonging to individuals, instead of making dividends therewith; the shares so purchased to be held in trust by said directors until the whole belonging to others than the United States should be liquidated; and when all the shares should be so purchased, the same should be transferred to the United States, upon condition that the government should levy tolls only sufficient to keep the canal in repairs and pay all necessary superintendence, custody, and expenses, and make all necessary improvements, so as to fully answer the purposes of its establishment; and, further, to protect the interests of commerce.

The directors have, as it appears, under the authority of said act, purchased, and now hold in trust, 7,093 shares of the capital stock of said company, which, with the shares owned by the United States and five shares held by the directors, individually, complete the full number of the shares in the capital stock of the said company.

It appears to the committee that the enlargement of the canal and the construction of a branch thereof, as contemplated in the proposed joint resolution, would be of great commercial advantage; and as the

proposed improvement will not and cannot, under the amendment to said resolution which the committee propose, subject the general government to any expenditure of money, or legal or equitable liability on account thereof; the committee respectfully report back said proposed joint resolution, with an amendment, and recommend its adoption; and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the bill referred to them in reference to the same subject.